

HODNET *Parish News* ***December 2023***



Published as a free Church fellowship outreach and delivered each month to every household in the communities of Hodnet, Hopton, Kenstone, Little Bolas, Lostford, Marchamley, Peplow & Wollerton.

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NATIVITY PLAYS - TRUTH OR MYTH

A swaying sensation, a crash and the kindly arms of a teacher picking me up - the year was 1978, and a 6 year old me, giddy with the excitement of being an angel and forced to stand in my sparkly outfit for what seemed like hours (but was probably minutes), had fainted. How much of this memory is truth and what has been added over the years I am not sure. Fast forward 30 years and I am directing a nativity play. The ingredients are still the same: tinsel halos, a doll in a manger, Joseph, Mary, a donkey and innkeepers. Nativity plays have been a staple of my life forever, whether as actor, director, or spectator.

Like my memories of my ill-fated angel role as a child, what of the modern nativity play is truth and what is myth? There is no written record of the events of 1978 when a child fell off a stage but the facts around Christ's birth were recorded by the gospel writers. Luke tells us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, Jesus' birth and the shepherds, while Matthew tells of magi from the east. While most people know that aliens and lobsters are modern additions, many are more fuzzy on the other details. I almost caused a riot in a classroom once when I challenged the children to find the donkey in the Biblical account (look it up- he's not there!). There is also no mention of a stable, innkeepers, kings or animals.

So yes, there are parts of the story that are myth but what is true? I love nativity plays not because of the cuteness factor or the tradition but because in the midst of the tinsel and tutus lies the most profound, earth-shattering truth. God took on flesh to save his people from their sins and that changed everything.

The incarnation of the Son of God is the most profound truth around which the history of our world pivots. The nativity play is a glorious celebration of this truth, one that I pray will reignite our hearts this year, refilling us with the profound joy of God's love for his world and giving us a truly happy Christmas.

Charmian Gamble is one of three Christian Distinctiveness Advisers supporting teachers and leaders in church schools across Lichfield Diocese.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - ST LUKE'S

* The church will be open on Saturday 23rd December from 9am for *
* floral pedestal and window creations. *
* *



EDITORIAL

Another year has flown by! It's hard to believe that we have been producing this magazine for 5 years now. This has only been made possible by all our wonderful advertisers, contributors, donations from our readers and our amazing delivery team. Our thanks to you all. It may be that next year March's edition will not be produced as a member of the editorial team is off to Australia for an extended break.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

We rely on you keeping us informed of upcoming events. Opposite is one we found on Hodnet Social Club's Facebook page.

To contribute an article, please contact us at editorhodnetparish@gmail.com with any offerings! **Our cut off date for January's issue is Friday 15th December 2023.**



PHOTO FROM THE PAST

With Hodnet behind you, Marchamley Community Club on the left, the Nurseries on the right and John Powell's grandfather's shorthorns walking home for milking, holding up what little traffic there was in the 1940s!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 4th January - Hodnet Parish Council - 7.30pm - Lyon Hall, Hodnet

Views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Panel, which reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to amend, edit, abbreviate, précis or refuse to publish any submitted contribution. Contributions, including photographs, are submitted at the contributor's own risk and are not necessarily returnable.

CHURCH SERVICES

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, HODNET

December

Sunday 3 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 10 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 13 th	6.30pm	Carols around the tree
Sunday 17 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 23 rd	5.30pm	Carol Service
Sunday 24 th	3.00pm	Crib Service
Monday 25 th	11.00am	Holy Communion

January

Sunday 7 th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
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CHAPEL OF THE EPIPHANY, PEPLOW

December

Sunday 10 th	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 24 th	5.00pm	Carol Service
Sunday 31 st	11.00am	Parish Holy Communion

SAINTS' AND SIGNIFICANT DAYS

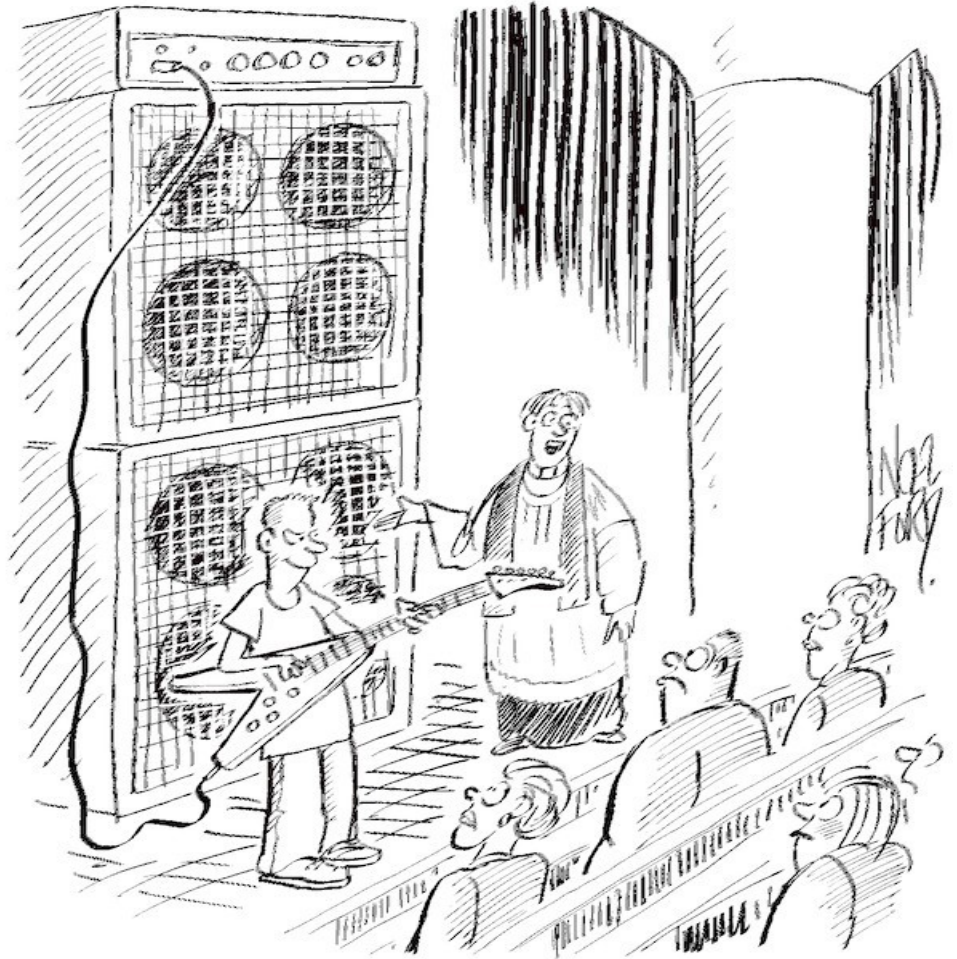
3 rd December	Francis Xavier
10 th December	Eulalia
17 th December	Begga
24 th December	Charbel Makhoul
31 st December	Silvester I

PRAYER

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age. As we rejoice in the faith of your Saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

CHURCH HUMOUR



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the verger's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."

CHURCH CONTACTS

Hodnet Churchwardens:

Janice Parker - 01630 685531

Tim Preston - 01630 685315

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN ST LUKE'S



Coffee and CRAFTS
GOOD FRIENDS, GREAT CRAFTS AND LOTS OF COFFEE

An opportunity to bring your craft project to church and enjoy the company, conversation and refreshments.



Church Choir

We are always looking for new members - if you are interested come along and speak to us after a Sunday Service.

JOIN THE CHOIR



Bellringing Practice

Weekly Fridays
7.00pm - 8.00pm.

If you are interested contact Bell Tower Captain John Powell on 01630 685325.

FILL A SOCK APPEAL - REMINDER

Fill a sock with the other sock from the pair, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, roll on deodorant, sweets, chocolate and pants (people are desperate for pants - all sizes not just large or extra large). They also need items like gloves, handwipes and extra socks but no money or items with alcohol can be accepted. The majority of the recipients of these socks will be male. Your filled sock can be dropped off in St Luke's on Wednesday or Saturday mornings 10am - 12 noon or at any church service. The cut off will be Sunday 10th December 2023.



ST LUKE'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

St Luke's Church is holding a Christmas Raffle to raise money for the upkeep of the church. The draw will take place after the Carol Service on Saturday 23rd December. First prize - £100, second prize - £50, plus many more prizes. If anyone would like to donate a prize, it would be gratefully received. Please support us by buying a ticket. Tickets can be purchased from the church wardens Janice and Tim.



Christmas at HAWKSTONE HALL & GARDENS



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Wreath Making Workshops | 28th & 29th Nov - £69.95pp, 2pm
& so much more... 1st Dec - £79.95, 7pm

Boxing Day Menu | £80pp
Festive Afternoon tea | £34.95pp

Luxury Overnight Stay Packages:
Two Nights - 24th - 26th December
Three Nights - 24th - 27th December

Scan the QR code above
for more on Christmas
at Hawkstone Hall...



BOOK CHRISTMAS
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LYON HALL, HODNET - REGULAR EVENTS

Yoga Class - every Monday 6.15pm - 7.15pm and 7.30pm - 8.30pm. Please contact Harriet Devaney on 07908 717337.

Qigong - 10am - 11am on Tuesdays. Contact Sue on sue@suepics.co.uk.

Ring craft dog training - 1pm - 3pm on Thursdays. Contact Anne Mann on 01630 653570 for more information.

Women's Institute - 7.30pm on second Thursday of the month. Contact details: hodnetwi@gmail.com or 07772 729764.

To book the Lyon Hall contact Francis Bennett on 01630 685213.

HODNET FOOTPATH GROUP

Our next 'First Tuesday' walk is on 5th December leaving the Lyon Hall car park at 10.30am. We will be walking Route 3, the 'Permissive Path' route, Hodnet to Marchamley and on to Hawkstone Hall, where we have arranged for refreshments to be available at a nominal cost and to walk the gardens at our leisure.

The outward route will be via The Hearne and Long Lane to Marchamley and on to Hawkstone, returning via the Permissive Path.

This is an easy walk of 2.5 - 3 hours and everyone is welcome including dogs on leads. For any queries or further information, please contact Jake Williams on 07474 974477.

HODNET WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



What a lovely evening we all had at our November meeting when we welcomed some more new ladies.

Last month's theme was 'Kissing Balls'. The kissing ball comes from the Middle Ages when people would wind evergreens together in a ball shape. In Victorian times this tradition was updated. Traditionally the kissing balls were decorated with greenery and fragrant herbs, many of these plants symbolized love and devotion hence the decorations came to be called kissing balls.

Everyone had their own ideas for decorating their balls from ribbon, pom poms, dried flowers, shimmery pine cones....it was a case of 'anything goes' the end result was a fabulous display of kissing balls that will adorn our houses over the festive season.

Our next meeting is our Christmas Dinner which is being held at The Fox and Hounds in Shawbury.

If you are interested in coming to see what we are up to at Hodnet WI then please do give Jeanette 07958 393721 or Jane 07772 729764 a call or message. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Lyon Hall, Hodnet.

Our programme for 2024 is nearly ready with some really fun and interesting evenings planned, watch this post as we can't wait to share it with you!



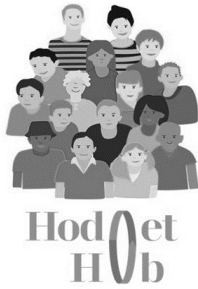
HODNET SOCIAL CLUB

Prize Bingo - now moved to 8pm on first Wednesday of the month. See their Facebook page or contact Angela Heath on 07815 126101.



Opening Times: Monday - Thursday 7.00pm - 11.00pm
 Friday 6.00pm - midnight
 Saturday 5.00pm - 11.00pm
 Sunday 2.00pm - 7.00pm

HODNET HUB GRANTS AVAILABLE



A big thank you to all those who have supported the Hub since the launch in February 2022. We held 8 trial events until June 2022 and were able to gather a good response to our survey and raised over £1000.

With changes to key personnel, and no-one available to build on the successful pilot, it is unlikely that the Hub will be able to continue.

We have therefore decided to publish our final accounts and wind up the Hub. However, the fund put aside is being redistributed and is available to you.

Grants for local activities

Hodnet Hub is offering 1 x £200, 1 x £100 and 1 x £50 for local groups to apply to receive in support of activities for young people in the Parish area. The criteria are:

- You are a group providing youth activities in the Hodnet Parish area, and
- You are applying for funding to continue existing provision, or
- You are applying to try something new in the area.

You can apply at www.hodnethub.org.uk and the closing date is 22nd December 2023. Those who are successful will be advised and funding provided by 5th January 2024.

Thinking of you hamper

Hodnet Hub is offering the opportunity to send someone a small hamper, valued at £20, to a local resident. Five hampers are available and can be provided anonymously or with your name(s) included. The criteria are:

- The individual is a resident of the Hodnet Parish area, and
- The individual has contributed to a sustainable, vibrant and happy community.

You can apply at www.hodnethub.org.uk and the closing date is 22nd December 2023. Those who are successful should receive their hamper by 5th January 2024.

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch you can email us team@hodnethub.org.uk. We are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HodnetHub. Or contact Darren (07730 004243). **Thank you once again for everyone's support of Hodnet Hub.**

COOKERY - FRANGIPANE MINCE PIES

A new variation on an old favourite. You will need deep mince pie tins for 18 pies and a 2 inch cutter.

Ingredients:

Pastry

6oz plain flour

3oz butter (cut into cubes)

1oz icing sugar

1 egg beaten

Frangipane

4oz butter, softened

4oz caster sugar

2 large eggs

4oz ground almonds

1 level tbsp plain flour

½ tsp almond extract

Filling and topping

Just under one 14oz jar mincemeat flavoured with about 2 tbsp brandy

A few flaked almonds

Apricot jam to glaze

Lemon juice



Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 200°C/Fan 180°C/Gas 6.

1. To make the pastry, measure the flour, butter and icing sugar into a food processor bowl, then process until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Pour in the beaten egg and pulse the blade until the dough starts to form a ball. Knead lightly, wrap and chill for about 30 minutes if the pastry is not quite firm enough to roll out.
2. To make the frangipane, measure the butter and sugar into the unwashed processor and blend until soft and creamy. Scrape down the sides, add the eggs and continue to process. Don't worry if the mixture looks curdled at this stage. Add the ground almonds, flour and almond extract and mix briefly.
3. Roll the pastry out thinly on a lightly floured work surface and cut into 18 no 2 inch circles. Use to line the tins. Spoon a teaspoon of mincemeat into each tartlet and top with the frangipane mixture. There is no need to spread the mixture flat as it will level out in the oven (but do not overfill the tins). Sprinkle a few flaked almonds on top.
4. Bake in the preheated oven for 15-17 minutes, watching carefully. Remove from the tins and allow to cool a little on a wire rack.
5. Dilute the apricot jam with a little lemon juice or water and bring to the boil. Brush each warm tartlet with glaze. These are best served warm.

THE

BEAR

INN

Sunday 17th December 5pm - Christmas Carols around the tree (the pub is open from 3pm to 9pm).

19th - 23rd December - usual hours

24th December - bar open only from 12 noon to 10pm

25th and 26th December - closed

27th - 30th December - usual hours

31st December - lunch served 12 - 2pm and NYE tasting menu from 7.30pm.

Closed 1st January - 9th January 2024.

Christmas Menu served from Tuesday 28th November to lunch on 31st December.

We are closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Please contact us for bookings on 01630 685214 or email

contact@thebearinnhodnet.com. See our website for our full Christmas Menus.

HODNET MEDICAL CENTRE - FLU VACCINATIONS

Book your flu vaccination now at Hodnet Medical Centre. Don't delay, we are using up stock levels fast. The sooner you have your vaccination the sooner you are protected.

Eligible groups for the 2023 to 2024 season:

- aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August 2023
- eligible school aged children (Reception to Year 11) (To be vaccinated at school)
- those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- all those aged 65 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers, those in receipt of carer's allowance or main carer of an older or disabled person
- household contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline health and social care staff

See the Green Book Influenza chapter 19 for full details on eligible groups.

Please note patients aged 50-64 without a clinical risk factor have NOT been included this year.

We will not be offering covid booster vaccinations at the surgery.

Did you know GP practices have to buy your flu vaccine nearly a year in advance? Please try to support your practice by having your vaccine with them because they've already bought it for you.



SWINNERTON CHRISTMAS TREES

WHETHER IT'S A BIG ONE, A SMALL ONE, A THIN ONE, OR A FAT ONE, WE WILL HAVE YOUR PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE.

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FOR MORE DETAILS DON'T HESITATE TO CALL DAVE: 07813175305

WOLLERTON GRANGE FARM, WOOD LANE, WOLLERTON, TF9 3NY

Mulberry Bush Studio

Wreath Workshops by Dorne at Papermill Park Ventures, Moston, SY4 4LU on 30th November, 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th December various times.

Book direct with Sue on 07974 740421.



Informal Wreath Workshop 28th November at the Lyon Hall, Hodnet 7 - 9pm. Book with Dorne on 07944 972999.



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WHERE IS THE CAT?

We all know about the Hodnet Public Houses: The Bear Inn as it is now called, once the more grander-sounding Bear Hotel, and the late lamented Squirrel Inn at Wollerton. What may not be known, was that there were another three pubs in the parish. On Shrewsbury Street, down the hill from The Bear, was the Unicorn Inn. This is where the name Unicorn Court comes from today.

The Census does not make it clear where the Lion Inn was situated, but I have been told it was in the half-timbered house on the junction with Church Street. Oddly, all the landlords in 1861 were called George.

House No.	Township	Name	Sex	Age	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born
69	Lion Inn	George Evans	Head	52	Employer of 2 Labours	Wales
		Elizabeth	Wife	51		Market Drayton
		Robert H.	Son	11	Scholar	Wales
		Julia	Daughter	8		Wales
		Frederic	Son	6		Wales
		Mary Bennett	Daughter	15	Housemaid	Hodnet
		Mary Gregory	Daughter	15		Wales
		Thomas Graham	Wife	24	"Ag. Lab."	Wales
		William Bradley	Wife	40		Wales
		Mary Thomas	Wife	22		Wales
0	Unicorn Inn	George Cartwright	Head	48	Innkeeper	Shropshire
		Margaret	Wife	38		Wales
		George	Son	13	Organist	Wales
		Richard	Son	14	Baker	Wales
		Harriet	Daughter	10		Wales
		Thomas	Son	7	Scholar	Wales
		Charles	Son	1		Wales
		John Jones	Wife	60	"Lab."	Wales
Total of Houses...		3	Total of Males and Females...		15	9

As can be seen from the 1861 Census, the landlord of the Lion was George Evans, who is recorded as a farmer and innkeeper, working 69 acres, employing 2 labourers. George Cartwright ran the Unicorn Inn with his wife Margaret, and their eldest son George is recorded as an Organist. We can only assume that he played for services across the road at St Luke's.

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The unmentioned Houses are situated within the Boundaries of the

Parishes (Township) of	County	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything of	Electoral District of
61	Shropshire	Bear Inn				
		George Wild	Head	45	Innkeeper	Wales
		Ann	Wife	44		Wales
		Elizabeth	Daughter	51		Wales
		John	Son	13	Scholar	Wales
		Harriet	Daughter	12		Wales
		George	Son	10		Wales
		Margaret	Daughter	4		Wales
		Harriet	Daughter	2		Wales
		James Hartley	Son	33	Baker	Wales
		Maria Evans	Wife	13	Housemaid	Wales
		Ann	Daughter	12		Wales
62	Wales	1	Samuel Jones	Head	57	Widder's Wale's employe
		Maria	Wife	53		Wales
63	Wales	1	Thomas Jones	Head	58	Organist
		Margaret	Wife	58		Wales
		Mary A. Gregory	Daughter	12	Scholar	Wales
		William	Son	4		Wales
		Maria	Daughter	4		Wales
64	Wales	1	Abraham Jones	Head	33	"Ag. Lab."
		Mary	Wife	29		Wales
		John	Son	1	Scholar	Wales
		Maria	Daughter	1		Wales
		Elizabeth	Daughter	1		Wales
		Maria	Daughter	1		Wales
65	Wales	1	Charles Jones	Head	62	Baker
Total of Houses...		5	Total of Males and Females...		9	16

Eng.—Sheet 14.

Where Is The Cat cont'd

George Wild ran The Bear Inn, with wife Ann, his widowed mother and 5 children. Two servants are recorded, a housemaid, and perhaps importantly, an ostler who was obviously needed as The Bear was at the time a coaching inn. Before the recent renovations, the filled-in brick arches could be seen in the walls, showing where the stables were.

So where was the fifth pub? Older residents of the parish will know of 'Cat corner', at the junction between Wollerton Wood and Marchamley Wood. The house on the corner was, between the 1860s and 1890s, a pub known as the White Lion. This was bought by the sitting tenant, John Harper, in 1879. By 1881, John had died, but his widow Elizabeth carried on serving beer but was retired living at 'The Cat' into the 1890s.

MARCHAMLEY BOOK CLUB

Marchamley Book Club will meet on Thursday 14th December at 7.30pm in Marchamley Community Club. There are two books for discussion:



Stepping Up by Sarah Turner

and/or

Half A World Away by Mike Gayle

Do come and join us for the book discussion or just a general chat and a drink. Any new book lovers will be warmly welcomed. We look forward to seeing you!

MARCHAMLEY COMMUNITY CLUB

We are open every Friday night from 7pm - 11pm. Please come and see what we've done to improve the Club and have a drink.

Saturday 2nd December - Boogie Bingo! For all the family. Doors open 7pm. Lots of prizes - a book of 12 games is only £6. Put on your dancing shoes and come and have a whale of a time!

Friday 8th December - Christmas Craft Evening. Making felt tree decorations. Pre-booking is preferable - text 07811 457723.

Saturday 16th December - Family Film Night! 'A Christmas Carol' (filmed in Shrewsbury) - see how many places you recognise and come wearing your Christmas jumpers! Doors open 7pm, film starts promptly at 7.30pm. £5 per person on the door (£10 family ticket) - mince pies and mulled wine available.

Family Movie Night

N.B. Friday 22nd December - Club closed.

Friday 29th December - Club open as usual - bring your Christmas leftovers to share.

See our Facebook page: **What's on At Marchamley Community Club.**

ViX'S HAPPiLiFE

ViX (Victoria Perks) moved to Shropshire last Summer when she left her busy city life in Birmingham and was inspired to launch HAPPiLiFE Wellbeing & Music.

"The beautiful countryside inspired me to combine all my skills and decades of experience to help others to be happier, less stressed, more confident, focused, creative...! I love to bring out the best in people of all ages and from all walks of life," she says.

ViX uses Mindfulness, Life Coaching, Reiki (Humans & Animals), E.F.T. Tapping, Relaxation, Chakra Balancing, Songwriting, Music Workshops and more to achieve great results. She welcomes clients into her own Zen Den and Sensory Garden as well as working in many other settings. See website (www.HAPPiLiFE.uk for more info). She currently has a special offer, perfect for a Christmas gift available as Gift Vouchers. (See images).

"The local community has been so welcoming and supportive towards me and my Mum (who has dementia and she cares for). I'd love to run some sessions in some local community centres, but I do have a couple of events coming up at Mystique Wellbeing in Shrewsbury in the meantime."

Mindfulness & More 1-2-1 Sessions & Meditation Group

Tuesday 28th November 2023

£30 for a 55 minute session (£10 deposit required for all bookings)

10 - 11am Mindful Meditation Group £7 per adult.

Mindful Meditation Group

Thursday 7th December 2023

7 - 8pm. Arrive 6.45pm for a cuppa & chat (please bring own mug if possible)

£7 Adults

ViX is also a singer-songwriter, most notably of the 80's chart band, "Fuzzbox", who are still the UK's most successful all-girl band (who play instruments) and is currently working on new music.






Gift Voucher

Choose one or a combination of the following:

- HAPPiLiFE COACHING
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- EFT (EMOTIONAL FREEDOM TECHNIQUE)
- CHAKRA BALANCING
- GUIDED MEDITATION
- VOCAL COACHING
- SONGWRITING



To make your booking
contact hello@happilife.uk
www.HAPPiLiFE.uk



Put the LiFE in your HAPPi with... ViX

WOLLERTON VILLAGE ROOM NEWS



The Village Band will next practise on **Saturday 2nd December 10am - 11.15am**. Still seeking more players. Aged 16+. Any instruments welcome. If you can play a scale, come along! For further information give Paul a call on 01630 638793.

Wreath Making Workshop - Sunday 3rd December Wreath making workshops 12noon - 2pm. Cost £20 per person to include all materials, mince pies and refreshments provided. Booking by email is essential as places are limited - wollertonvr@gmail.com.



Our next **Wollerton Wander** will take place on **Wednesday 6th December** at **10.30am** followed by a cuppa and a chat in the Village Room. Please come along and support the group - no booking required. £1 per person.

Our regular **Book Club** meetings are on the **second Tuesday** of the month starting at 7pm in the Village Room. We look forward to discussing *Bees by Laline Paull* on **Tuesday 12th December** and collecting our next book *Her by Harriet Lane*.



Sunday 10th December - Christmas get together - 2pm - 4pm - mulled wine and mince pies. All welcome. Free event with raffle and Christmas stocking fillers for sale.

To join our mailing list or book any event pop an email to: wollertonvr@gmail.com

Follow us on:

Facebook



Instagram



WOLLERTON TENNIS CLUB



Club night is Tuesday from 6pm. All abilities welcome to come and join us for a friendly game of tennis. New members are always welcome and can join at any time - adult £35, family £50. Courts can be used for private games.



Please telephone:

Gill on 07814 409268 or Linda on 01630 685432.

PEPLOW NEWS - HARVEST THANKS

The Harvest Supper held in the Chapel of the Epiphany was a lovely evening with 44 sitting down to a two-course hot meal. We made an amazing £600 so a big thank you to all the cooks, helpers and supporters who made it such a great night.

KIDS' CORNER

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

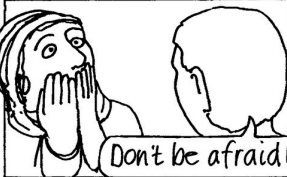
It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 1:26-56 & Matthew 1:18-25

In Israel, about 2000 years ago, a young woman, Mary, was going to marry Joseph. The weddings were in two stages.

In one year we will complete our wedding



Then God's messenger angel came to see Mary.



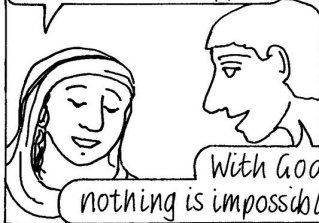
Don't be afraid!

You will have God's baby, and call him Jesus, 'God saves,' because he will save people



from what they do wrong.

How can this happen?



With God, nothing is impossible.

Your cousin Elizabeth, who couldn't have children, is now 6 months pregnant.



Mary visited Elizabeth.



When Joseph heard that Mary was pregnant, he was very upset



This will bring shame on me and my family.



He always did what was right so he decided to end their marriage, but quietly.



But the angel came to him in a dream.



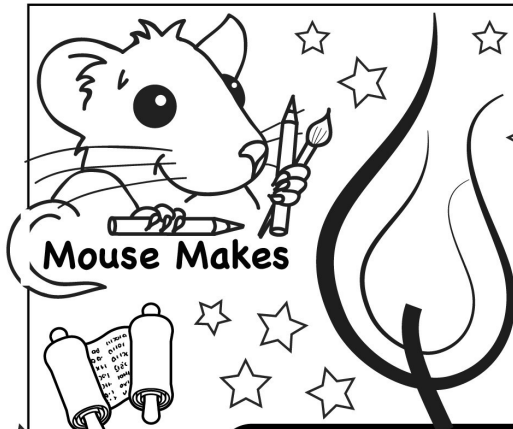
Don't be afraid to marry Mary. The baby is God's, and you will call him Jesus.



So Joseph and Mary completed their marriage.



MOUSE MAKES



ADVENT comes from the Latin 'AD VENTO' which means **ARRIVAL**

In Advent we celebrate Jesus' birth and look forward to the time when Jesus will come again.



GOD'S PROMISE
Isaiah 9:6-7

CHILD • BORN • SON
GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER
Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD



A LONG JOURNEY
Luke 2:1-20

BETHLEHEM
REGISTER • BIRTH
MANGER • INN
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



THE BEST GIFT OF ALL
John 3:16

GOD • SO • LOVED
WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE

V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
H	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
F	A	V	O	U	R	E	F	R	W	S	O
B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
I	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	U	R	L	O
F	E	C	O	U	N	C	E	L	L	O	R
A	N	G	E	L	B	J	V	K	D	V	D
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	G	E	S
L	A	N	G	E	L	S	R	G	O	D	V
I	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	T	D	S	M
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S	A	E	G	R	E	A	T	O	N	L	Y
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N	E	O	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	N
F	L	O	C	K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	B

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

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WILDLIFE WATCHER - A BERRY GOOD YEAR

It's a good year for hawthorn berries. This year The Woodland Trust recorded some of the highest numbers of hawthorn berries on hedgerows and woodland since records began 20 years ago. It attributed this to the milder than average temperatures this spring, and such a bountiful harvest is good news for all our wildlife. The berry-like fruits of the hawthorn are called haws and are not actually berries, as they contain a stone, in the same way that plums do. Haws make good jelly for us humans with the 'berries' also enjoyed by our native small mammals as well as migrating birds such as redwings and fieldfares.

The cooler temperatures have certainly seen some of our wildlife coming closer to human habitation. The squirrels have returned to see what the bird feeders have to offer in the way of easy food and they don't like other squirrels in the close vicinity! If you're within earshot, you'll hear them making their loud 'cross' chattering noises, whilst twitching their tail in annoyance. Squirrels are surprisingly vocal with the majority of their noises relating to danger in response to predators. You can often hear them in trees even if you can't see them. The birds too seem to have increased their regular visits to our bird feeders and are more welcome than the squirrels.



A flock of lapwings are still favouring the area around Tern Hill, seen recently flying towards Wollerton. The collective noun for lapwings is a 'deceit' and Britain supports internationally important numbers of lapwings in winter, the majority of which primarily spend their time on lowland farmland with short vegetation where they'll feed on worms, insects, beetles, ants, flies, moths, spiders, and snails. In flight, lapwings look black and white but seen close

to they have some glossy green plumage with a purple sheen on their shoulders. Our native lapwing numbers are swelled in late summer, autumn and winter by lapwings which have spent the summer breeding in Scandinavia, The Netherlands, Denmark and Germany, so we'll see if our local population increases.

A 1953 study of UK lapwings drew attention to the relationship between the lunar cycle and their behaviour. Lapwings feed predominantly during daylight hours, however, for a few days around the full moon they feed nocturnally and remain virtually inactive during the day, although it has been acknowledged that nocturnal feeding can occur at other times of the lunar cycle. Interestingly, it was found that lapwings do not feed at night if thick cloud cover obscures the moon or if there is snow or heavy frost on the ground.

Time will tell if we will see snow this winter, certainly many of our mammals are already keeping a lower profile. If you do still have any hedgehogs visiting your garden this month, cast a watchful eye over them, as every autumn late litters of young are born and they don't always have enough time to reach 700g, which is the minimum weight recommended to get them through hibernation. If you need help with hedgehogs, and indeed other wildlife, Shropshire's only 24/7 rescue centre: Cuan Wildlife Rescue in Much Wenlock (TF13 6DD) – 01952 728070 - will help and take them in. <https://cuanwildliferescue.org.uk/>

However you hope to spend the festive season, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Here's to 2024 being a good year for us all.

'Wildlife Watcher'

PUZZLE PAGE

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

Silent	Night	Loved	Carol	Austria
First	Sung	Stille	Nacht	Heilige
Christmas	Eve	Father	Joseph	Mohr
Young	Priest	Organist	Midnight	Mass
Melody	Single	Bing	Version	Third

M	O	H	R	L	A	A	M	A	S	S	T
R	T	N	E	L	I	S	T	I	L	L	E
Y	E	M	G	L	I	A	N	R	D	N	E
J	L	B	I	N	G	M	M	T	T	O	M
I	O	A	L	D	U	T	L	S	G	I	E
T	V	S	I	T	N	S	E	U	E	S	L
O	E	I	E	T	S	I	N	A	G	R	O
Y	D	N	H	P	R	R	G	A	E	E	D
O	A	G	I	P	H	H	I	H	C	V	Y
U	I	L	O	R	A	C	T	F	T	H	E
N	D	E	D	O	T	A	D	R	I	H	T
G	C	A	G	A	F	R	A	E	H	A	U

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SMILE LINES

Snowman

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

What would you like for Christmas?

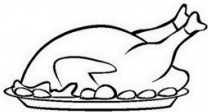
A little girl went to visit Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and the question of what she would like for Christmas.

The little girl gasped and stared up at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

Dear Santa, this year, please give me a big fat bank account and a skinny body. Please don't mix these up like you did last year.

What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.



The Everlasting Turkey



On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.
On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.
On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.
On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.
On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.
On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.
On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.
On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.
On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.
On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.
On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.

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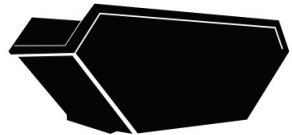
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1	Wreath Making Workshop - 2pm - Hawkstone Hall Hotel	Christmas Party Night - 7pm - Hawkstone Hall Hotel
	Bellringing Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church	An Evening of Song - 7pm - Wollerton Bowls & Social Club
2	Village Band - 10am - 11.15am - Wollerton Village Room	Boogie Bingo - 7pm - Marchamley Community Club
	Wreath Making Workshop - 12 - 2pm & 3 - 5pm - Wollerton Village Room	
3	Morning Prayer - 11.00am - St Luke's Church	Christmas Carols at Hawkstone Hall Hotel
	Wreath Making Workshop - 12 - 2pm - Wollerton Village Room	
4		
5	Hodnet Footpath Group - 10.30am - Lyon Hall car park	
6	Wollerton Wander - 10.30am - Wollerton Village Room	Craft Group 10am - 12 noon - St Luke's Church
	Mobile Library - 45 Wood Lane 11.10 - 11.40am Bus Stop; Marchamley Bus Stop 11.50 - 12.05pm	
	Choir Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church	
7	Mobile Library - Castle Hill Layby 10.30 - 10.45am.	
8	Bellringing Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church	Christmas Crafts - 7pm - Marchamley Community Club
9		
10	Holy Communion - 11am - St Luke's Church	Mulled Wine & Mince Pies - 2-4pm - Wollerton Village Room
	Christmas Carols at Hawkstone Hall Hotel	
	Evensong - 6.30pm - Chapel of the Epiphany, Peplow	
11		
12	Wollerton Village Room Book Club - 7pm	
13	Craft Group 10am - 12 noon - St Luke's Church	Carols round the Tree - 6.30pm - St Luke's Church, Hodnet
14	Christmas Party Night - 7pm - Hawkstone Hall Hotel	Hodnet WI - 7.30pm - Christmas Dinner
	Marchamley Book Club - 7.30pm - Marchamley Community Club	
15	Bellringing Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church	Magazine final submission date
16	Christmas Film Night - 7pm for 7.30pm - Marchamley Community Club	
17	Holy Communion - 11am - St Luke's Church, Hodnet	Christmas Carols at Hawkstone Hall Hotel
	Christmas Carols - 5pm - The Bear Hotel, Hodnet	Kid's Christmas Party - 3 - 6pm - Hodnet Social Club
18		
19		
20	Craft Group 10am - 12 noon - St Luke's Church	Choir Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church
	Mobile Library - 45 Wood Lane 11.10 - 11.40am Bus Stop; Marchamley Bus Stop 11.50 - 12.05pm	
21	Mobile Library - Castle Hill Layby 10.30 - 10.45am	Christmas Party Night - 7pm - Hawkstone Hall Hotel
22	Bellringing Practice 7 - 8pm - St Luke's Church	
23	Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols - 5.30pm - St Luke's Church, Hodnet	
24	Crib Service - 3pm - St Luke's Church, Hodnet.	Carol Service - 5pm - The Chapel of the Epiphany, Peplow
	Christmas Eve Ball - 7pm - Hawkstone Hall Hotel	
25	Holy Communion - 11am - St Luke's Church, Hodnet	
26		
27		
28		
29		
30		
31	Parish Communion - 11am - The Chapel of The Epiphany, Peplow.	



*Christmas Carol
Fundraiser
Carols Around The
Tree*

*Wednesday 13th December
St Lukes Church - 6.30pm
in aid of Hope House
Children's Hospices.
Followed by
refreshments
in church*